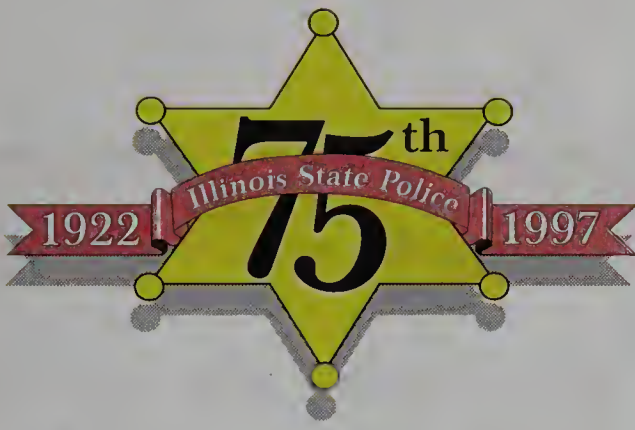


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**Parents and caregivers rely on school buses to safely take children to and from school. A child's safety depends upon the driver to properly operate the bus, and to ensure the special visual bus signals are in good working order. Safety also depends heavily on motorists' obedience to the laws for approaching a school bus when loading or unloading passengers, regardless of location.**

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From 1990-93 there were more than 350 convictions in Illinois for improper passing of a school bus; this does not include figures in which court supervision was granted.

*(Illinois Secretary of State)*

On average, half of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus crashes over the last ten years ranged in age from 5 to 7 years old.

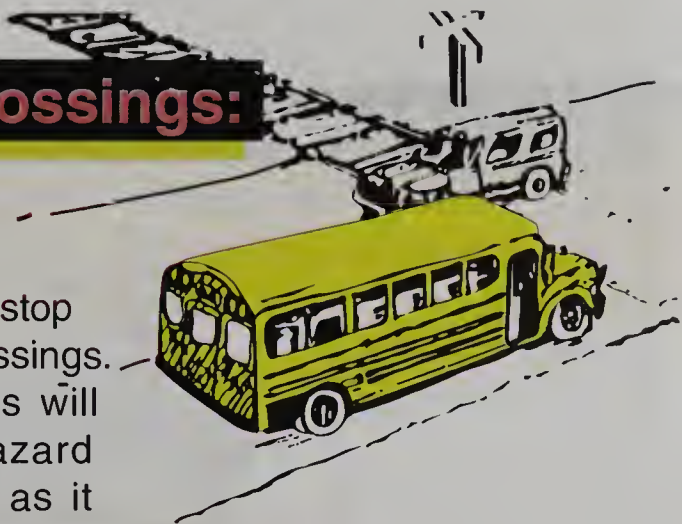
*(NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts 1994)*



## Railroad Crossings:

State law requires all school buses to stop for railroad crossings. The school bus will display the hazard warning lights as it stops momentarily to

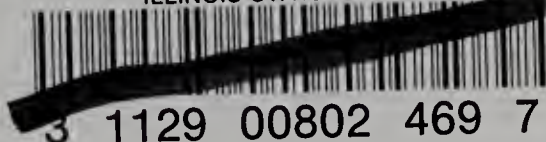
determine if it is safe to cross. If you are approaching the bus from the front, you may proceed past with caution. If you are approaching the bus from the rear, the law prohibits driving over the center line to pass if the bus is within 100 feet of a railroad crossing. For safety, always leave plenty of room for the bus to maneuver or back up in case of an emergency.



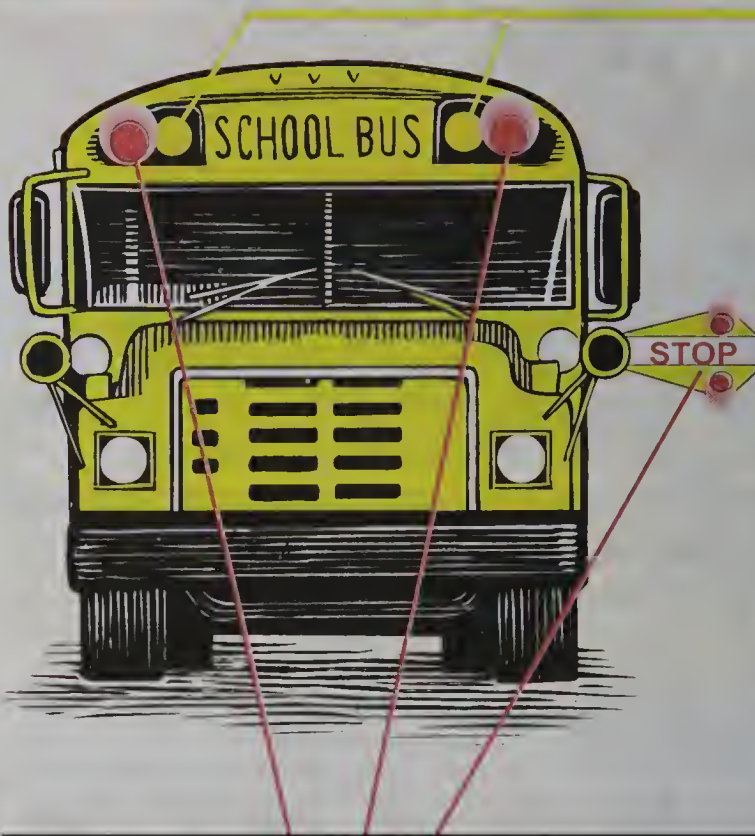
## Bus Drivers/Teachers

Bus safety will be considered important to students if bus drivers/teachers show an interest and emphasize its importance. Rules of conduct on the bus and principles of walking safely when loading and unloading should be discussed in class periodically. Students should be cautioned not to play while the bus is operating or while waiting at the designated stop. Students should also be advised to follow the directions of the bus driver. When boarding the bus, they should only cross the street upon the signal of the driver or crossing guard. Once aboard, passengers should practice "classroom behavior" to keep distractions for the bus driver to a minimum.

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## what the law says & safety tips:



Coming from either direction you must **STOP** when you see these signals displayed

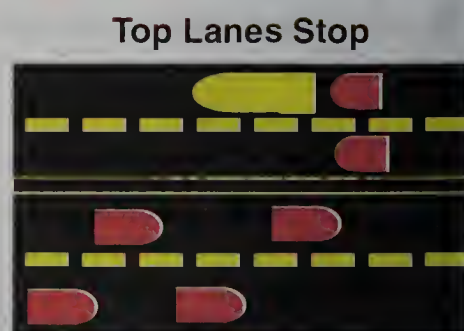
Exception: If a school bus is on a highway having four or more lanes which permit at least two lanes of traffic to travel in the opposite direction, a vehicle approaching the stopped school bus in the opposite direction need not stop.

## THE MOTORING PUBLIC

On two-lane roads, all traffic in both directions of travel must stop when meeting a stopped school bus.



But on roads with four lanes or more, with traffic in both directions, vehicles traveling in the opposite direction of a stopped school bus need not stop.



Bottom Lanes Continue



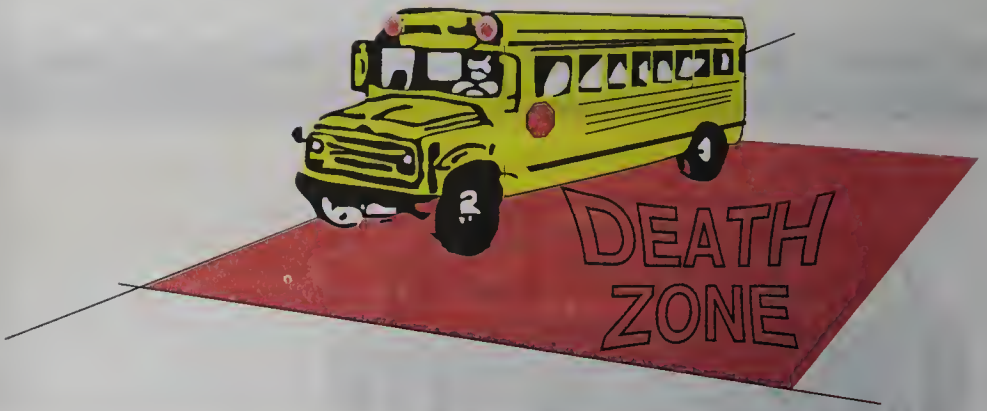
A school bus' flashing yellow lights are a warning the bus will soon be stopping to load or unload passengers.



The extended **STOP** signal arm and flashing red lights advise motorists that the bus has stopped and is loading/unloading passengers.

Motorists may proceed after stopping for a bus if one of the following occurs: the bus resumes motion, the bus driver signals the motorist to proceed, or the flashing lights are turned off and the stop arm signal is no longer extended.

Note: Even if the vehicle owner was not the person who violated the statute, it is still their responsibility to identify the driver who did violate the law. If the vehicle owner fails to disclose the identity of the driver who violated the law, the violation is transferred to the registered owner.



## CAUTION:

The majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are injured outside the bus. Most are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm. This area around the bus is often referred to as the **"DEATH ZONE."**

## Penalties for Illegally Passing a school bus

**First offense** - mandatory minimum fine of \$150 and 3 month suspension of driver's license.

**Second offense or subsequent conviction within five years** - mandatory minimum fine of \$500 and one-year suspension of driver's license. A motorist cited for illegally passing a school bus will not be eligible for court supervision.

To schedule a program for your school or group, please contact the Safety Education Office (217) 524-2525 or contact your nearest Illinois State Police district headquarters.

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Division of Traffic Safety